

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-58 are pending.

Claims 1-44 and 46-58 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ishiguro et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,502,765 (“Ishiguro”). Claims 4 and 45 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Ishiguro in view of Carlisle et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,649,118 (“Carlisle”).

Applicants’ Reply

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 25, 32, 37, 41 and 54 to clarify the invention. No new matter is added. Applicants respectfully traverse the prior art rejections.

The Office Action indicates that the claims as previously presented did not explicitly include the limitation of comparing “trusted times” on two cards, and did not explicitly include the limitation of replacing the older time on one of the new cards with the newer time on the other card.

Applicants disagree. However, the Examiner’s perception that the claims lack recitations of these limitations (comparison of trusted times leading to mutual updating) appears to be the basis for the sustained claim rejections based on anticipation by Ishiguro.

Applicants have therefore amended the independent claims to explicitly recite a comparison of the “trusted times,” leading to replacement of the “older time” by the “newer time”.

For brevity here, applicants do not reproduce but incorporate by reference herein the Remarks presented in the previous Reply. Applicants request that the Examiner should kindly consider those Remarks in the context of the presently amended claims.

Applicants submit that the amended claims are now clearly distinguished over Ishiguro. As discussed in the Remarks presented in applicants’ Reply filed October 14, 2005, Ishiguro does not

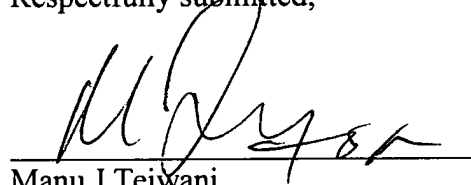
show, teach or suggest comparing “trusted times” on two cards and mutually replacing the “older” time on one of two cards with the “newer” time on the other card as is required by the independent claims. Accordingly, claims 1, 25, 32, 37, 41, and 5, which include “mutual” updating limitations are patentable over Isiguro. Additionally, dependent claims 2-24, 26-31, 33-40 and 42-53, and 55-58 also are patentable over Ishiguro for at least the same reasons as their respective parent claims.

Applicants respectfully request entry and allowance of claims 1-58.

Conclusion

This application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and prompt allowance of which are requested. If there are any remaining issues to be resolved, applicants respectfully request the Examiner to kindly contact the undersigned attorney by telephone for an interview.

Respectfully submitted,



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